

ABSTRACT

WA-I-453

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 99(102)

1767 replacement (first set 1902)

Leitersburg, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 99(102) marks (or approximately marks?) Mason and Dixon's 99th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. It is an original milestone of 1767, quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, was used as a replacement for the milestone originally set at this site, and was first set in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is unaltered but only in fairly good condition. If found to be at the site as redetermined in 1902, it is at the site preliminarily surveyed in 1765. It now stands <sup>firmly</sup> about 1 foot above ground level; measures close to 12 inches square; <sup>and</sup> is so weathered very little of its distinguishing embellishments remain: only the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, and some fluting on the south side. The top is now flat (no longer pyramidal with fluted planes) and mostly covered with cement, as though a repair of earlier damage; all top corners are chipped, particularly the northwest and southwest, as are all edges, and all margins are gone. On the national and state levels, No. 99(102) is significant primarily as one of 135 original monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), it is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

**ABSTRACT**

**WA-I-453**

**99th Mason-Dixon Line marker**

**1765**

**Leitersburg Vicinity**

**public**

This 99th Mason-Dixon milestone is significant as one of the remaining original boundary markers planted by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon who began work on the division line between Maryland and Delaware and Pennsylvania in 1764.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Survey No. WA-I-453

Magi No.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)  
HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE, 99th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON  
MASON-DIXON LINE: Milestone No. 99 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 102)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER east side of Leitersburg (LR-28004)/State Line Road

CITY, TOWN Leitersburg ☒ VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
MD: 6 / PA: 9

STATE Maryland COUNTY  
MD: Washington/PA: Franklin

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED		<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED		<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS		<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED		<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED		<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: state boundary marker

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)  
COURTHOUSE, LIBER #:  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE WA-I-453 entered 2/24/81  
FEDERAL ☒ STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE  
Maryland

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	? <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE <sup>redetermined</sup> 1902
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

(if in the redetermined site of 1902)

Milestone No. 99(102)/marks Mason and Dixon's 99th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original/<sup>milestone</sup> replacement of 1767, first set in 1902 at a redetermined original site during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is in fairly good condition, firmly set but leaning slightly to the northeast, and is unaltered.

The area here is rural, comparatively open farmland, scattered patches of deciduous woodlands, sparsely settled. The site is within Election District 9 of Washington County, MD; Washington Township of Franklin County, PA; about 2½ miles northwest of the town of Leitersburg,<sup>about 0.9 mile north of Jacob's Church Road,</sup> about 6 feet off the east edge of State Line Road/Leitersburg Road (T-359), in the level side yard of the Diller farm (about 100 feet northwest of their old stone barn), between two wood posts which serve to mark and protect it somewhat. It should be noted here that there is a discrepancy in locations of this monument on several maps: the site on the 1900-03 Resurvey engineer's map, <sup>Penn-DOT 1980 Franklin County map</sup> and the MGS 1944 Washington County map is on the west side of the road; on the USGS Hagerstown quadrangle and MD-DOT map on the east side. (This will be traced in the follow-up Phase II of the present Mason-Dixon Line boundary marker project.)

According to the 1900-03 Resurvey (MGS Vol. 7, 1908, p. 89): "The monument placed here by Mason and Dixon had disappeared, having apparently been broken up, as small pieces of its peculiar material were found. The position was redetermined and another monument supplied. It stands by the road from Greencastle to Leitersburg." The replacement, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, was quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, and originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4½ feet long with a low pyramidal top, cut to stand as a post about 3 feet above ground, with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing embellishments are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. The replacement milestone still measures close to 12" square; stands about 1 foot above ground; has a flat rather than pyramidal top, most of which has been filled in with cement, as though to protect and repair from some earlier damage; and all surfaces are very weatherworn. The letters and most of the circle panels are fairly intact and clear; the top corners and edges are chipped, the southwest and northwest particularly; and no fluting or margins remain except on the south side (fluting only).

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of  
**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY** the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	boundary surveying			

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 first set 1902 ~~at~~ ~~at~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon  
 at ~~at~~ SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 99(102), a replacement milestone of 1767, is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of a series of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1765, first milestone set two years later, and the replacement first set at a redetermined original site in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. 99(102) is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acreQuadrangle name: Hagerstown (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series  
(topographic), scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 27253, northing 439990

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Washington

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Franklin

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason &amp; Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust &amp; Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

10/13/80 (site surveyed)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

301/472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: <b>Mason-Dixon Line Marker</b>				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Leitersburg-State Line Road</b>				
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Leitersburg Vicinity</b>				
STATE <b>Maryland-Pennsylvania</b>		COUNTY: <b>Washington-Franklin</b>		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Boundary Marker</b>		
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: <b>State Of Maryland - Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div>(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<div>(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The 99th Mason-Dixon Line milestone is located at the east birm of the Leitersburg-State Line Road about 2 1/2 miles north of Leitersburg where it marks the boundary between Washington County, Maryland and Franklin County, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>The marker is a block of cut stone planted firmly in the ground. Its south face is inscribed with the letter M while the north face displays a P.</p> <p>The marker is in deteriorated condition with evidence of damage and extensive weathering at its corners.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**B. SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☒ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science   | <u>Boundary Marker</u>                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |   |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This 99th Mason-Dixon milestone is significant as one of the remaining original boundary markers planted by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon who began work on the division line between Maryland and Delaware and Pennsylvania in 1764. The line was completed in 1767. The team crossed South Mountain and began working on the portion of the line forming the Northern boundary of Washington County on September 1, 1765. In 1768 the actual placing of stones was completed.

The running of the Mason-Dixon Line solved the boundary dispute which had plagued Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware. A temporary line had been run in 1739 which was approximately 225 perches north of the present line.<sup>1</sup> This line, however, apparently did not ease the dispute. The contested land between Maryland and Pennsylvania brought frequent clashes among residents in the area. One of the most famous leaders in the border fighting was Col. Thomas Cressap who was given the responsibility of holding the Maryland border by Lord Baltimore.

The Penns and Calvert, Lord Baltimore employed Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon of London to lay the boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland and Delaware. These men and their team used sophisticated scientific methods to determine the course of the boundary. At each mile a stone was planted with an M and P incised into the appropriate surfaces. Five mile intervals were marked with larger, more elaborate crownstones which carried the Coats of Arms of the proprietors. The stones are said to have been cut in England. Although enough stones were imported to complete the line, they were not used in the rough mountainous areas because of transportation difficulties. Instead, high piles of native stones marked the miles in the mountains. According to T.J.C. Williams' History Of Washington County, the unused English stones were left at Fort Frederick near Clear Spring in Washington County.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Herbert C. Bell, History Of Leitersburg District.  
Leitersburg, Md: the author (1908) p. 46.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas J.C. Williams, A History Of Washington County, Maryland.  
Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Company, (1906) p. 35.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bell, Herbert C., History Of Leitersburg District, Leitersburg, Md:  
the author, 1908.

Williams, Thomas J.C., A History Of Washington County. Hagerstown, Md:  
Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

November 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:

Court House Annex

CITY OR TOWN:

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

## 12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_







P. 1

MA 1 1133

112 WEST LINE: MHEST 215 P. 1, ORIGINAL (1767)  
AND CORNER (P. 1)

112 WEST LINE: MHEST 215 P. 1, ORIGINAL (1767)



1767-1768 - 15th of June 1767, ORIGINAL (1767)  
CE. 1767-1768

1767-1768 - 15th of June 1767, ORIGINAL (1767)





WA-T-453

500

June 1966

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY